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**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

15th February, 2017

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose copies of the reports for the following items to be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 17th February, 2017.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. **Restricted Items**

(a) City Centre investment Fund (Pages 1 - 18)

7. **Equality and Good Relations**

(a) Minutes of Meeting of Shared City Partnership (Pages 19 - 38)

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
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Subject:	Shared City Partnership Meeting – 13 th February 2017
Date:	17 th February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager
Contact Officer:	Margaret Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer

Is this report restricted?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 13 th February 2017.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the minutes from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 13th February 2017 including the following recommendations:</p> <p>That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve the recommended option and additions contained within the Shared City minutes in respect of the Bonfire Programme 2017. • approve the Good Relations Action Plan 2017/2018 for submission to The Executive Office; • approve the use of delegated authority to approve grants administered by the Good Relations Unit and also to issue Letters of Offer to successful applicants at risk if necessary; • note the opportunity for a potential application to the DoJ for Interface Working for 2017/18 funded through the T:BUC; • agree that any potential projects or themes of work, including the suggestions from the Area Working Groups would be brought forward through the Shared City Partnership

	<p>Workshop which would be held on 21st February; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note that the timescale of submission to the DoJ is likely to be the end of February 2017 and that political approval was required; • note that funding of up to £5,000 is to be awarded to the groups meeting the criteria through the Good Relations Programme • note that St. Patrick's FC is to erect a mural at 43 New Lodge Road on a wall which is currently used for anti-community and negative political graffiti. • note that North Belfast Alternatives is to support a reimaging project in the Ballysillan Road area that aims to address issues of demarcation in the local community.
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Main report</p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership (formerly known as the Good Relations Partnership) is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p> <p>The key issues on the agenda at the January meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on the Local Development Plan; • Update on Peace IV; • Update on the Bonfire Programme; • Good Relations Action Plan 2017/18; • Good Relations grants 2017/18; • Response to the Commission on Flags, Identity and Culture and Tradition; • Update on T;BUC DOJ Funding 2017/18 Consultation on the Belfast Agenda; • Update on the Mural Transformation Programme; • Date for Workshop on the Belfast Agenda <p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the minutes of the meeting on 13th February attached to this report.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The draft Good Relations Action Plan which will be submitted to TEO to deliver the District Council Good Relations Programme 17/18 includes £230,000 to support the Good Relations</p>

3.4	<p>Small Grants Programme. This is in line with allocations in previous plans for small grants funding. The Planned Intervention Resource which is funded 100% by TEO is usually in the region of £100,000. Allocations to both funding streams will be in line with these amounts. However, confirmation of funding for the programmes are usually received in late April/May and therefore, Letters of Offer for the Good Relations and Planned Intervention would be awarded at risk. All other recommendations are covered through existing budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
4.1	<p>Copy of the minutes of the Shared City Partnership of 13th February 2017.</p>

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SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, 13th FEBRUARY, 2017

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);
Alderman Sandford and Councillors Attwood, Johnston,
Nicholl and Walsh.

External Members: Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland;
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Union Council; and

Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director;
Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer;
Mr. I May, Peace Programme Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Mrs. A. Chada, Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Mrs. M. Marken and Mrs. G. Duggan.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th January were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Mr. S. Brennan declared an interest in that he was undertaking some temporary employment with the Housing Executive.

Update on the Bonfire Programme

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To ask Members to consider the option presented in relation to the 2017 good relations approach to bonfires and agree that this be recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee for approval. This option has been developed in line with the principles agreed by the Partnership in November 2016 and is based on feedback from elected members, stakeholders and participating groups.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That members of the Shared City Partnership consider the option presented and agree that this be recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee for approval.

3.0 Main Report

Belfast City Council Approach to Bonfires

Background

3.1 The Good Relations approach to bonfires is only one of seven workstreams that aims to address some of the challenges emanating from bonfires including community safety, good relations, environmental and cleansing issues. Other Council units and statutory partners are leading on addressing those issues that are relevant to their own particular area of expertise.

3.2 Crucially, all of these units and partners are working together on a programme of work which is being delivered on a collaborative basis. Thematically, these workstreams include:

- Interagency approaches
- Good Relations 'Bonfire Programme'
- Develop consultation framework for cultural expression activities
- Beacons and creative approaches
- Enforcement and cleansing (tyres)
- Priority site delivery plans
- Area engagement and operational delivery

Bonfire Programme Review

Background

3.3 Council has delivered a good relations led programme to support the better management of 11 July bonfires and the provision of alternative activities to 8th August bonfires for over 13 years. There has been substantial progress in engagement with hard to reach groups and tackling environmental, community safety and good relations issues over this time.

The Good Relations Unit has engaged in consultation over the past two years with elected members, participating groups and other partners on how to develop the current programme.

Much of the feedback identified the fact that current approach has reached a transition point and that change should be introduced.

3.4 At the November 2016 meeting of the Shared City Partnership, members agreed 8 principles / guidance which should be used in developing options for 2017 approach. These principles have been used to inform the emerging options and vision for the programme.

- Agree a vision for the Programme – This should reflect support for safe, positive, inclusive forms of celebration.
- Change the name of the programme from Bonfire programme to reflect the vision.
- Support the use of beacons and other creative forms of cultural expression where possible
- Offer support for the positive expression of culture within the PUL community through a capacity building programme that includes area cultural networks
- Introduce indicators which are separated from the burning of flags and emblems on 11 July
- Recognise that the issues addressed by groups associated with August bonfires are not related to good relations outcomes and should be supported accordingly.
- Recognise that the wider issue of bonfires and cultural celebration is a complex issue. A further set of principles should be developed that will underpin all activity funded through this programme (a similar approach was used to agree principles for Decade of Centenaries commemorations).
- Recognise that cultural celebrations operate with different levels of support and participation in communities. An approach should be developed to measure levels of support and engage with residents.

Future Vision

3.5 The suggested vision for 2017, which is in line with the Belfast agenda is as follows:

Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all. Belfast is a place which supports positive, respectful expressions of culture that value diversity and encourage participation.

The long term approach should provide a funding resource for community celebrations that promote positive cultural expression or that promote shared cultural space. Groups

that have accessed funding through the bonfire programme would still access this resource.

Emerging option

- 3.6** Members will note that developing an agreed approach to bonfires is a sensitive issue and the following option has been developed to provide an approach that will have widespread political support. The Shared City Partnership has stated its desire to inform the development of approaches to contentious issues and the approach to bonfires provides an opportunity to do this.
- 3.7** The option to cease delivery of a good relations approach is not recommended as all evidence suggests there is a strong need for a good relations programme that provides support to develop positive expressions of culture within PUL communities. The need for engagement with this section of the community was reiterated in the findings of the recently completed good relations audit.
- 3.8** The option to deliver as usual with no change risks reputational damage as Council has engaged a range of stakeholders through different exercises to seek recommendations in relation to future delivery. All of the feedback has indicated a need for change and points to the fact that the programme is in a period of transition. There is an onus on Council to take this opportunity to lead a change in approach.
- 3.9** Option for 2017 Approach – should include the following elements as standard:
- Promote the use of beacons, which will be delivered in line with an agreed selection criteria and on an area basis, where possible
 - Provide support for the positive expression of culture within the Unionist and Loyalist community through a capacity building, training and awareness raising programme.
 - The programme should adopt an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach with identified outcomes and indicators. These should include: Increase in the % of participants who respect and understand the culture of another background, increase in the % of participants who think that their cultural identity is respected by society
 - Support creative approaches to expression of culture within Unionist and Loyalist communities, this should include use of art forms.

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- Support networking forums which bring groups from all communities together to raise awareness of cultural diversity, deliver training and support positive change
- August groups should be supported through other resources within the City & Neighbourhood Services Department.
- The programme should be renamed – Bonfire and cultural expression programme

3.10 In addition, it is recommended that the following approach should be agreed in relation to programme grant aid:

- Provide a total resource of up to £1,750 to 35 groups. There would be an initial grant of £1,250 for a community event or festival activity. £875 would be paid to groups initially.
- An additional incentive of £500 would be made available for activity from July – March for groups that met the guidelines of the programme.
- Groups will agree to meet the guidelines of the programme in relation to accessing training and having sites that are free of tyres, flags and paramilitary displays.
- If groups fail to meet this criteria they will be ineligible to participate in the 2018 scheme. It is recommended that a review panel, composed of members of the Shared City Partnership should review the involvement of groups in the programme and how they have met the good relations outcomes.

Pros

- Includes incentive to participate in programme and promote positive behavior
- Supports cultural expression over a longer period than the summer months
- Clear promotion of good relations outcomes

Cons

- Challenging to monitor sites after 8pm on 11 July
- High level of administration
- Reduction in initial value of funding available

Policy Context

Members will note that the above option will operate alongside the development of policy from the pieces of work below:

- **Community Relations Council is commissioning a scoping exercise on bonfires with SOLACE – this work hopes to identify common approaches and issues in relation to bonfires across all council areas in NI.**
- **Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition – the Commission will produce a report by December 2017 which will include recommendations in relation to issues of direct relevance to this programme.**
- **Programme for Government – the outcomes that relate to the programme for government are being developed. At present, the indicator in relation to reconciliation is % the population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society. This is of direct relevance to this area of work.**

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.10 To date no budget has been finalised. However, an initial provision of 156k has been made though officers are still negotiating and working with partners to obtain funding. Both suggested options can be delivered within this budget.**

NIHE have secured an additional £50,000 which they are using to develop additional bonfire beacons that may be available for use through the current programme. NIHE have also advised that they will provide the current funding of 35k in addition to the beacon resource.

If there are a large number of applications to participate in the programme, officers will update the Shared City Partnership and consider reallocation of the programme budget to support the participation of new groups.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.11 The Bonfire Programme aims to promote the positive celebration of culture which will have a positive impact on good relations. This is a sensitive issue and the detail of any agreed programme will have to be equality screened.”**

The Senior Good Relations Officer reminded the Partnership that it had previously agreed that it would develop a medium to long term strategy to implement changes to the Bonfire Programme and she proceeded to outline the proposed options for the 2017 Bonfire Programme.

The Chairperson advised the Partnership that correspondence had been received from another Member with suggested additions to the options for the 2017 programme and the Senior Good Relations Officer proceeded to outline these.

The Members considered the proposed options in conjunction with the suggested recommendations and additions. Following consideration the Partnership recommended

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to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the options as outlined in the report be approved.

The Partnership recommended also that the three suggested additions be included as follows:

1. the review panel should be comprised of Members of the Shared City Partnership and include representation from the Independent Members and Elected Members. It was suggested that the review panel membership would be the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and an Independent Member of the Shared City Partnership.
2. a process would be created to recognise best practice in cultural programmes and events amongst participating groups; and
3. a complementary process would be developed for hard to reach groups that were not currently in a position to sign up to the aims of the programme. This approach would operate through an expression of interest and would provide an opportunity to develop knowledge and skills particularly amongst young people.

Presentation on the Local Development Plan

(The Urban Development Officer, Urban Design Officer and Senior Planning Officer attended in connection with this item).

The Partnership was advised that the Council was responsible for developing a Local Development Plan (LDP) for Belfast. This involved working with local people to create a clear vision of how the Council area could be developed and give consideration as to what it might look like in years to come.

The Partnership was advised that a Preferred Options Paper (POP) had been prepared as part of the LDP process. It was intended to promote debate on issues of strategic significance which might influence the preparation of the new LDP and was also viewed as a key opportunity for the public to shape the future plan.

It was reported that the POP summary paper outlined four strategic aims for growth and development in Belfast for the period to 2035 linked to the aspirations within the Belfast Agenda (copies of the POP Summary Document were circulated at the meeting).

The Partnership was informed that a twelve week consultation exercise on the POP had commenced on 26th January and closed for responses on 20th April. Given that the POP aimed to promote debate on strategic issues which would influence and shape future development in Belfast, the Partnership Members were encouraged to participate in the consultation exercise, and they were also asked to promote awareness of it. The Partnership was advised that more information in respect of the LDP and the POP was available on the Council's website [here](#) and that the consultation document was available for access [here](#).

Several Members reiterated the importance of good relations, community relations and diversity within the emerging LDP and it was suggested that the LDP be added to the agenda for the forthcoming workshop on the Belfast Agenda. The Good

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Relations Manager advised that it was proposed to hold this immediately following the March meeting of the Shared City Partnership and confirmed that officers would be in contact to confirm the details.

Update on Peace IV

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update the Partnership on the application for funding for a Belfast Local Action Plan under the PEACE IV Programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked note the revised timescale for the Stage 2 bid and reworked approach to the Shared Space theme.

3.0 Background

3.1 Council submitted an application for funding for a Local Action Plan for Belfast under the PEACE IV Programme focusing on three key themes of Children & Young People; Shared Spaces & Services and Building Positive Relations. The bid is for approximately €17 million to be delivered from 2017 to 2021. The bid was submitted to the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Council’s initial bid was approved by the PEACE IV Steering Committee (with an initial score of 72%) and Council submitted a more detailed Stage 2 application in September.

4.0 Key Issues

4.1 SEUPB has now indicated that due to the significant financial allocation for the Belfast bid the assessment process requires additional levels of scrutiny and assurance before the Plan can be presented to the PEACE IV Steering Committee. The Belfast Plan has an allocation of €17 million, more than twice the amount of the next largest Plan (Derry & Strabane).

4.2 The assessment process for the Belfast Plan requires approval by the accountable central government departments as well as SEUPB. Given the additional requests for information and clarification from SEUPB it is anticipated that the assessment and approval process will now be completed within 3-4 months of submission.

4.3 Council staff are now progressing this with SEUPB and specialist consultancy support to ensure completion of the assessment process and timely implementation of the Plan.

- 4.4 The original Plan timetable envisaged work commencing in the 17/18 financial year so it is anticipated that the revised timescale should not unduly impact upon the delivery of programmes under the Plan.

Shared Space Theme - Key Issues

- 4.5 The proposal as submitted included scope for infrastructure/ capital works as well as programming costs. The exact locations for the proposed signature civic space and satellite environmental improvement schemes were to be identified in Phase 1 of the works which was planned to run until September 2018. Criteria for selection included as a minimum feasibility; deliverability; sustainability and affordability of proposals along with contribution to the specific PEACE IV Programme objectives and desired results; transformational potential, quality of design and value for money. Completion of all activity under the theme was anticipated by December 2021.
- 4.6 SEUPB has now requested additional detail on the Shared Space element of the proposed Local Action Plan for Belfast including identification of target locations for the proposed capital element with a redrafted bid to be submitted to them by the end of January. SEUPB have indicated that they expect target locations to have a clear and demonstrable peace and reconciliation focus in line with the criteria detailed above and expect the Belfast Plan to target significant interface areas.
- 4.7 Senior Officers were briefed on feedback from SEUPB on the application in January and discussed options around further development of the Shared Space proposal. It was agreed that the methodology and approach as outlined in the bid were still relevant and appropriate but that the identification of target locations for the proposed capital element would need to be accelerated to meet SEUPB's timetable and requirement for up front identification of specific locations.
- 4.8 In discussion of the options consideration was paid to a number of capital schemes at varying stages of development that are seeking funding. However given the call criteria as outlined above significant potential was identified for the focus of delivery to be put on the Springfield Road interface which remains the longest physical barrier in the city. The approach would involve developing a corridor of shared space via key locations at Springfield Dam, Paisley Park and the Invest NI land on the former Mackie's site.

- 4.9 Activity under the Shared Space theme would focus on creating and improving linkages between, and increasing usage of, significant assets within the area, promoting shared space within the particular local context as well as complementing existing and proposed new developments in the area. This approach would be reflected in the allocation of programming and capital works undertaken under this theme.

Other Areas of the City

- 4.10 In addition to this signature proposal resources would also be deployed under this theme to explore developing similar approaches in other significant areas of the city, e.g. Girdwood, Cultural Corridor, City Centre Gateway sites etc to work with local communities on identifying and planning for other shared spaces and their long term management, programming and sustainability, building upon the existing assets and relationships in the area.
- 4.11 Areas to be prioritised for involvement would be those that are continuing to deal with legacy issues arising from the conflict and suffering from high levels of social deprivation including poverty, low educational attainment, barriers to improved employability and increased economic activity, mental health and wellbeing issues and disability.

Programming

- 4.12 Throughout the engagement and design stages and in the identification and agreement on principles of shared space specific consideration will be paid to the impact of parades; flags, emblems, graffiti and other related issues upon successful design and creation of shared spaces as well as the ongoing programming and management of shared spaces. This will be done through creative use of planning scenarios; visioning and other techniques to facilitate discussion. The same approach will apply to the linked satellite spaces developed under this theme.
- 4.13 Communities would be assisted to build local capacity in terms of action planning, animating and managing shared spaces and would provide an opportunity to link in with Council's approach to community asset transfer.
- 4.14 Activities would involve
- Support for technical assistance for visioning and planning purposes.

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- **Regular knowledge exchange and best practice events so that learning can be shared across the city and to identify potential for innovation and collaborative work.**
- **Agreement of Shared Space Principles and identification of Environmental Improvement locations and civic space site.**
- **Diversity Awareness/ Good Relations training/ events**
- **Animation/ Placemaking Events/ site tours**
- **Scenario Planning/ Visioning/ Discussion & Debate Support for technical assistance for Design/ Programming/ Management/ Sustainability.**
- **Initial Draft Designs/ Concept - EI Schemes**
- **Development of Good Relations Toolkit and Guide for shared spaces**
- **Ongoing Evaluation**

The approach as outlined above has been considered by members of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee and ratified by Council at its February meeting.

4.15 Financial & Resource Implications

100% funding is available under the PEACE IV Action Plan for supported activities deemed eligible and compliant by the Managing Authority.

5. Equality & Good Relations Implications

- 5.1 The Plan's design and implementation is intended to help promote equality of opportunity and good relations within the city so the Plan has been screened out on the basis that the screening exercise identified major positive impacts across Section 75 grounds which are considered as impacts that would help to promote equality of opportunity and good relations."**

The Partnership was informed that Mr Isaac May, Peace Programme Manager, would be leaving the Council at the end of February.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Partnership, thanked Mr. May for the contribution which he had made during his thirteen years with the Council and wished him every success in his new role.

The Partnership noted the revised timescale for the Stage 2 bid and the reworked approach to the Shared Space theme.

Good Relations Action Plan 2017/18

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The Good Relations Manager reminded the Members that, each year, the Council submitted an annual Action Plan to The Executive Office (TEO) based on the good relations audit in order to draw down funding for the Good Relations work of the Council. The Action Plan would be 75% funded by TEO, while the remaining 25% had been included in the Council's 2017/18 budget. She explained that correspondence had been received advising that the Action Plan must be submitted by 27th February in order to be scored and assessed.

She advised that the format of the action plan submissions had been revised by TEO and this allowed for easier management and reporting of projects, particularly in relation to the achievement of outcomes. The District Council's Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) used an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach which allowed for complementarity with the emerging Belfast Agenda.

She reminded the Partnership that it had indicated that it would welcome greater involvement in the development of the Action Plan and this had been facilitated through various engagement opportunities that had been provided in the development of the recent good relations audit and codesign of the Plan. She advised that the Programme bid to TEO totalled £680,000, with £510,000 being requested from TEO. The Council had made provision to support good relations activity within the estimates for 2017/18.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it approves the Good Relations Action Plan 2017/2018 for submission to TEO. The Partnership also noted that the Action Plan submission would be subject to alteration and amendment during the assessing and scoring process which would be undertaken by TEO and that the Partnership would be notified of any changes in the final approved Action Plan at a later date.

Good Relations Grants 2017/18

The Good Relations Manager reported that, by the closing date, a total of 49 applications for the Good Relations Small Grants Fund had been received, requesting a total of £295,000. Forty-seven applications, seeking a total of £183,000 from the Planned Intervention Fund, had been received also.

The officer advised that the budget for the Planned Intervention Fund originated from The Executive Office (TEO). It was funded 100% by the TEO and was administered on their behalf by the Good Relations Unit. The Good Relations Small Grant Fund reflected the Together: Building a United Community Strategy and was co-funded by TEO (75%) and Belfast City Council (25%) through the District Council Good Relations Programme.

The Good Relations Officer pointed out that it was unlikely that the Council would receive a letter of offer from TEO by April and, with the projects due to commence at the beginning of April, the Council was in a position where it would have to issue Letters of Offer at risk. She advised that the Council had received a commissioning letter from TEO, which confirmed that the letter of offer for the programme would be issued early in the financial year. Accordingly, she recommended that, in order to support the delivery of the good relations programmes in local communities from the beginning of April, the

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Partnership recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Letter of Offer could be issued at risk once the awards had been approved.

She also advised the Partnership that the issue as to how grants should be administered had been identified in the recent good relations audit and a move towards delegated authority had been recommended. She reported that officers were requesting that the Partnership recommend the use of delegated authority for all grants administered by the Good Relations Units. The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services would be required to approve the grant awards under delegated authority and a paper listing the awards would be submitted to the earliest Shared City Partnership meeting for notation.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it approves the use of delegated authority for grants administered by the Good Relations Unit and also to issue Letters of Offer to successful applicants at risk if necessary.

**Response to the Commission on
Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition**

The Partnership was reminded that, representatives from the Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition, had made a presentation to the Shared City Partnership at its meeting held on 5th December 2016. At this meeting, the Commission had outlined its role, process of engagement and the timescale for the Commission to report back to the Executive.

The Partnership had subsequently agreed to forward the relevant information to the Commission to assist with its works but agreed that this would not be a formal submission but would consist of outcomes/information gathered from previous relevant Council evaluations and workshop events.

The Good Relations Manager drew the Members' attention to the proposed correspondence and following consideration the Shared City Partnership agreed the correspondence as a response to the current engagement being undertaken by the Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition.

Update on T:BUC DOJ Funding 2017/18

The Good Relations Manager updated the Partnership on the invitation from the Department of Justice (DoJ) to submit an application for funding regarding interface working within the Council for 2017/18.

She reminded the Members that the Council was currently availing of a £28,000 funding contribution from the DoJ managed T:BUC/Fresh Start monies for 2016/17. She reported that the funding was being used to deliver work around interfaces that supported the T:BUC headline action on barrier removal and included the delivery of a workshop with the Shared City Partnership on interface working within the Council and technical assistance towards the Council-supported application for funding by the Black Mountain Shared Space group to SEUPB (under PIV) for the development of the Finlay's site as a shared space.

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She reported that the Council's Interfaces Internal Officer group had identified a shortlist of 7 priority interface sites that could benefit from good relations-led interventions, and officers had been attending the Council's Area Working Groups to advise them of the T:BUC funding opportunity for 2017/18 and to seek agreement on the priority shortlist of sites.

The Partnership noted that the Executive Office and the Department of Justice were keen that the Council would avail of T:BUC/Fresh Start funding opportunities for 2017/18 (managed by DoJ).

The Good Relations Manager highlighted that there was no definite criteria re: the T:BUC funding and also that there was a series of constraints with regard to the potential funding stream, including the following:

- funding was allocated on an annual basis which restricted what could be planned and delivered within one year: and
- decision on funding bids would not be provided until after the June monitoring round (therefore monies would not be received until July at the earliest, which would leave a delivery period of only 7-9 months).

The officer also asked the Partnership to note that due to the Council's lack of ownership of interface/security barriers in the City, it would be challenging to deliver any small-scale environmental or art-led projects at interfaces.

The Partnership noted that the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services had forwarded correspondence to the DoJ relaying these concerns, whilst also confirming the Council's interest in working in partnership to try and address interface issues.

The Partnership was reminded that a workshop had been arranged on Tuesday 21st February to look at interface working within the Council. It was anticipated that this workshop, subject to political approval, could provide a forum where potential projects and themes for the application for 2017/18 could be considered, along with the suggestions from the Area Working Groups.

The Partnership:

- noted the opportunity for a potential application to the DoJ for Interface Working for 2017/18 funded through the T:BUC;
- agreed that any potential projects or themes of work, including the suggestions from the Area Working Groups would be brought forward through the Shared City Partnership Workshop which would be held on 21st February; and
- noted that the timescale of submission to the DoJ was likely to be the end of February 2017 and that political approval was required.

Update on the Mural Transformation Programme

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update members of the Shared City Partnership on the Mural Transformation Programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That Members recommend to the Strategic & Policy Resources Committee that funding of up to £5,000 be awarded to the following groups.

- **St. Patrick’s FC to erect a mural at 43 New Lodge Road on a wall which is currently used for anti-community and negative political graffiti.**
- **North Belfast Alternatives to support a reimaging project in the Ballysillan Road area that aims to address issues of demarcation in the local community.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Members will recall that it had allocated up to £20,000 towards a mural transformation programme at its meeting on the 11th April, under the theme Our Safe Community, within the current Good Relations Action Plan.

3.2 At its meeting in October, the Partnership approved funding for one project which had been successful under the open application process which had been undertaken with regard to this programme. In addition, Members had requested that officers report back with proposals to reallocate the remaining budget within this overall programme.

3.3 At its November meeting the Partnership awarded up to £5,000 towards the removal and transformation of a UVF mural in East Belfast as well as £2,900 from this programme towards repairs to an art piece on Northumberland Street. There is therefore around £7,000 remaining within this overall budget. There is an additional underspend of £3,000 in the overall good relations budget, this leaves an overall total of £10,000 which officers are requesting be allocated to the two projects below.

- 3.4 The wall at New Lodge Road is a focal point for graffiti which is perceived by the local community as offensive and at times aggressive. The opportunity to replace this with a positive image is consistent with the criteria of the overall Mural Transformation Programme that was previously agreed by Members. A copy of the proposed image is attached in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The Mural Transformation Programme sits within the Safe Community theme of the Good Relations action plan and aims to address the need to reduce physical markings.
- 3.6 In seeking alternative proposals officers were approached by North Belfast Alternatives who have developed a project that will support the use of hanging baskets rather than flags in the Ballysillan area of north Belfast. This project will meet the need of reducing physical markings and is an innovative approach that, if successful, could be modelled in other areas.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.7 Funding to carry out this work is available through existing resources. Permission has been received by the Council from the home owner and a suitable sporting image of the local club has been developed which would meet the criteria for replacement, as detailed below. The GR Unit will work with Belfast City Council, Parks section and Transport NI in relation to the erection and maintenance of the flower baskets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.8 This area of work is part of the overall District Council Good Relations Programme, which seeks to promote good relations.”

The Partnership adopted the recommendations.

Date for Workshop on the Belfast Agenda and Local Development Plan

The Partnership agreed that a workshop on the Belfast Agenda and, as agreed earlier in the meeting, Local Development Plan would be held immediately following the March meeting of the Shared City Partnership.

Chairperson